(viii) Continuing Medical Education activities are being conducted in the Central Govt. hospitals in Delhi to sensitise the medical and paramedical personnel on biological terrorism.

(ix) The situation is being monitored.

Nutritional Anaemia in A.P.

1378. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Nutritional Anaemia due to iron deficiency under Reproductive and Child Health Programme and National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the results achieved during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) As per the National Family Survey (NFHS-2), 1998-99, 72.3% of Children under age 3 and 49.80% ever married Women age 15—49 years in the State of Andhra Pradesh suffer from Anaemia.

Surveys conducted in the State of Andhra Pradesh by Iodine Deficiency Disorder Team and other Health Institutions have shown that out of the ten districts surveyed, 9 districts were endemic having Iodine Deficiency Disorders prevalence more than 10%.

Year-wise details of women and children suffering from anaemia or those of prevalence of Iodine deficiency disorders are not available.

Development of herbal medicines

1379. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are not concentrating on herbal medicines and formulations which enhance the immunity of the body and help the patients to fight various diseases successfully;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to grant more funds for the development of herbal medicines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P.

THAKUR): (a) Various scientific organizations under the Government have been working on immunity enhancing products.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government would provide adequate funds for ensuring availability of genuine raw materials, standardization of products, inter-mural and extra-mural research and broader facilities for testing ISM&H products.

Expensive HIV/AIDS drugs

1380. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether drugs for HIV/AIDS positive are very expensive in the country as compared to other countries of the world;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to increase the price of HIV/AIDS drugs;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government are getting any aid from WHO; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) No, Sir. WHO does not provide support for HIV/AIDS drugs.

Use of Anti-Retroviral Drugs

1381. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that transmission of HIV from mother to the newly born baby can be reduced provided anti-retroviral drugs are given to the mother;

(b) whether any study has been conducted on this; and

(c) if so, the details and the outcome of the study undertaken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has initiated feasibility studies on prevention of mother to child transmission in 11 centres located in high HIV prevalent States